

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 156127
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TAGS: ENRG, IEA, IT

SUBJECT: JUNE 27-28 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY GOVERNING
BOARD (IEA/GB) MEETING

REF: (A) IEA/GB(77)24; (B) PARIS 19301

SUMMARY. AT JUNE 27-28 IEA/GB, ITALIAN DELEGATION MADE
GENERAL RESERVATION ON REDUCED DEPENDENCE DRAFT DECISION
SCHEDULED FOR FORMAL APPROVAL AT OCTOBER IEA/GB MINISTERIAL.
OTHER THAN SAYING THAT DRAFT DECISION DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH
ON SUBJECT OF IEA COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR AREA, ITALIANS GAVE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 156127

NO CLEAR EXPLANATION FOR THEIR RESERVATION. EMBASSY
REQUESTED TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH APPROPRIATE GOI REPS,
TO ASCERTAIN MORE FULLY ITALIAN PROBLEMS W,TH DRAFT DECISION,
AND TO URGE LIFTING OF RESERVATION PRIOR TO MINISTERIAL
MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING DISCUSSION OF IEA/GB DRAFT DECISION (FOR CON-

SIDERATION AT OCTOBER 1977 MINISTERIAL MEETING) ON QTE GROUP OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES FOR ENERGY POLICY UNQTE, WHICH WILL BE CENTERPIECE OF IEA REDUCED DEPENDENCE EXERCISE, ITALIAN DELEGATION (HEADED BY MAGLIANO) RESERVED GOI POSITION ON ENTIRE DRAFT DECISION. (ITALIANS SPOKE FIRST ON THIS AGENDA ITEM, LODGING RESERVATION EVEN BEFORE

TEXT OF DRAFT DECISION TO BE CONSIDERED BY MINISTERS HAD BEEN HAMMERED OUT.)

2. AT REQUEST OF US REP (BOSWORTH), ITALIAN DELEGATION CIRCULATED STATEMENT (IN ENGLISH) EXPLAINING REASONS FOR THEIR RESERVATION:

QTE MR. CHAIRMAN,

QTE THE DOCUMENTS WE ARE EXAMINING TODAY INDUCE US TO TAKE A VERY IMPORTANT POSITION, AS REGARDS OUR AGENCY'S WORK. THE PROBLEM IS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A POLICY CONFIRMING ITSELF TO A MERE REDUCTION OF OIL CONSUMPTION AND A POLICY WHICH, THOUGH PURSUING SUCH AN OBJECTIVE (THAT, IN ANY CASE, WE SHARE) MAY ALREADY PLACE AT THE SAME LEVEL THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES, OFFERING CONCRETE GUARANTEES ON THIS SUBJECT.

QTE FOR MY COUNTRY WHICH -- AS YOU KNOW -- DEPENDS ON
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PAGE 03 STATE 156127

ENERGY SOURCES FROM ABROAD, THE CONCEPT OF SOURCES ALTERNATIVE TO OIL IS IDENTIFIED WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY. CONSEQUENTLY, THE INSTRUCTIONS I HAVE RECEIVED ARE IN THE FRAME OF THIS DE FACTO SITUATION.

QTE 1. SUCH INSTRUCTIONS INDICATE THAT, IN THE OPINION OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, THE DRAFT DECISION ON GROUP OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES FOR ENERGY POLICY WOULD BE, IN RESPECT TO THE NUCLEAR SECTOR, A REGRESSION AS COMPARED TO THE DECISION ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD HELD AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL ON 27 MAY 1975.

QTE 2. THE NOTE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY BY THE SLT CHAIRMAN IDENTIFIES CORRECTLY THE CONSTRAINTS WHICH HINDER THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SOURCE. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS HARD TO FIND IN IT -- DUE ALSO TO ITS PRELIMINARY CHARACTER -- SUFFICIENT ELEMENTS ENABLING US TO SEE A SPEEDY ATTAINMENT OF A CONCRETE COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD. WE HAVE TO REALIZE THAT THE AGENCY'S ROLE ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION SHOULD NOT BE DESTINED TO BE RESTRICTED TO THE ENUNCIATION OF SUBJECTS ALREADY DISCUSSED IN OTHER FORA AND TO DEBATES ON THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE IEA AND THE INFCEP (INTERNATIONAL

NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION PROGRAM). MOREOVER, PRINCIPLE 8 RELATED TO NUCLEAR ENERGY COULD BE INTERPRETED AS CONTAINING RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS RISKING TO MINIMIZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH ENERGY SOURCES.

QTE 3. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS I HAVE RECEIVED, I RESERVE THE ITALIAN POSITION

ON THE WHOLE DRAFT DECISION. IN THE OPINION OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, THIS DRAFT REFERS TO PRINCIPLES OF ENERGY POLICY AND TO NATIONAL AS WELL AS GROUP OBJECTIVES WHICH SEEM TO BE SUBJECT TO MANY UNKNOWN EXTERNAL FACTORS AND UNRESOLVED ISSUES. THAT IS WHY WE COULD HARDLY TAKE A COMMITMENT TOWARDS SUCH PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES.
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PAGE 04 STATE 156127

QTE FOR MY PART, I WISH TO ADD THAT, IN THE CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT WHICH HAS ALWAYS INSPIRED THE ACTION OF MY DELEGATION I SHALL BE GLAD TO PARTICIPATE -- POSITIVELY, I HOPE -- IN THE DEBATE IN VIEW OF THE NEXT MEETING AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. UNQTE

3. EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH APPROPRIATE MFA REPS FOR DISCUSSION OF JUNE 27-28 IEA/GB MEETING IN ORDER ASCERTAIN MORE PRECISELY WHY GOI HAS PLACED RESERVE ON DRAFT GB DECISION AND DISCRETELY SUGGEST THEY LIFT RESERVATION BEFORE OCTOBER MEETING OF IEA/GB AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. EMBOFFS MAY DRAW UPON FOLLOWING POINTS DURING DISCUSSION:

-- OCTOBER MINISTERIAL GB DECISION ON GROUP OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES FOR ENERGY POLICY IS NOT LEGALLY BINDING COMMITMENT BUT A STRONG STATEMENT OF THE POLITICAL WILL OF MEMBER COUNTRIES TO REDUCING DEPENDENCY ON OIL IMPORTS.

-- IT IS IN ITALY'S OWN INTEREST TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCY ON IMPORTED OIL. ITALIAN FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IEA REDUCED DEPENDENCY EXERCISE WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY OIL PRODUCERS AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS AND WOULD LEAVE ITALY IN AN EVEN MORE VULNERABLE POSITION.

-- WE HAVE CAREFULLY EXAMINED THE GOVERNING BOARD'S MAY 27 1975 CONCLUSIONS AND THE MAY 27, 1975 MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESENT LANGUAGE OF THE DRAFT DECISION AND ESPECIALLY PRINCIPLE 8 (NUCLEAR GENERATING CAPACITY) IN ANNEX I (PRINCIPLES FOR ENERGY POLICY) TO THE DRAFT DECISION WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE DRAFT DECISION IS IN ANY WAY INCONSISTENT WITH, OR REGRESSIVE FROM, THE MAY 27, 1975 CONCLUSIONS OR COMMUNIQUE. MOREOVER, WE DO NOT INTERPRET PRIN-
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PAGE 05 STATE 156127

CIPLE 8 AS RESTRICTIVE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR
POWER IN LIGHT OF THE STATEMENT MADE AT THE GOVERNING BOARD
ON JUNE 27 BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE LOUIS
NOSENZO.

-- AN ITALIAN RESERVATION TO THE MINISTERIAL DECISION COULD
PRECLUDE ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE IEA REDUCED DEPENDEN-
CY EXERCISE BUT COULD NOT PREVENT OTHER MEMBERS FROM MOVING
AHEAD WITH SUCH A PROGRAM. VANCE

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